

Team Names: \_\_\_\_\_

# *Bill of Rights for Your Classroom*

**Directions:**

Your teacher has rules for the classroom. Think of these as your constitution. Your job is to work with a classmate and come up with a bill of rights for your classroom constitution. Classroom rules say what you **cannot** do. Your bill of rights should be what you **can** do! Are you allowed to have soda in class? (Amendment 4) That can be on your bill of rights! How about the right to wear mismatched socks? (Amendment 9) These are just a few ideas. Be creative!

Remember: Try to base your bill of rights off of the real one. See reverse for a guide.

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# Guide to the Bill of Rights

1. The First Amendment: Free speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, and freedom of petition:
  - a. Freedom of speech: Can you think of any time where you might not have this?
  - b. Freedom of petition: Means you can ask the government to help fix things you think are wrong, or complain about things that the government is doing wrong.
2. The Second Amendment: The right to bear arms:
  - a. This means all adults can have guns: Can you think of any exceptions to this rule?
3. The Third Amendment: No soldiers in your house:
  - a. The government cannot make you keep soldiers in your house without your permission.
  - b. Why do you think they added this one?
4. The Fourth Amendment: No unreasonable searches and seizures:
  - a. This means the government cannot search or take your stuff without a good reason, and without telling you beforehand with a warrant what they will search or take.
5. The Fifth Amendment: The right to a jury trial, no double jeopardy, and the right not to testify against yourself:
  - a. Right to a jury trial: They can't send you to jail for a serious crime without first letting you be judged by your peers
  - b. No double jeopardy: You can't get in trouble for the same action twice
  - c. Don't have to testify against yourself: You don't have to say something that will get you in trouble.
6. The Sixth Amendment: Speedy trials and lawyers:
  - a. You don't have to wait in jail for a long time for a trial.
  - b. You can have a lawyer to help defend you.
7. The Seventh Amendment: Jury trial in civil cases:
  - a. You can have a jury trial if someone sues you.
8. The Eighth Amendment: No excessive bail or cruel and unusual punishments:
  - a. Can you think of any cruel or unusual punishments?
9. The Ninth Amendment: Other rights:
  - a. Rights in the Constitution cannot take away other rights that are not in the Constitution.
10. The Tenth Amendment: Powers not in the constitution:
  - a. Any power or right that is not in the Constitution is automatically for the people, and not for the government.
  - b. Can you think of any rights that you have that are not in the Bill of Rights or Constitution?